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Weekly Report 1-30-14.doc

*Weekly Report 01/30/2014 FOR **INTERNAL EPA USE ONLY***

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- Maryland (Lead Liaison)	Linda Miller	215-814-2068
- Pennsylvania	Kinshasa Brown-Perry	215-814-3295
- West Virginia	Mark Ferrell	304-542-0231
- Virginia	Matt Colip	215-814-5439

Delaware

Delaware Governor Delivers State of State Address and Introduces FY15 Budget Proposal – On

February 23, Delaware Governor Jack Markell laid out his 2014 priorities in his annual State of the State Address. Included in his speech, the Governor proposed to invest \$1.1 billion over five years, a \$500 million increase over the current financial plan to improve transportation, wastewater, drinking water and stormwater infrastructure across the state. To support this proposal, next month he will introduce the “Clean Water for Delaware’s Future” Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to clean up Delaware’s waterways within a generation while creating jobs and revitalizing communities. Furthermore, the Governor proposes to dedicate \$7 million toward grants to fund different building, housing and transportation incentives in downtown communities and create “downtown development districts” to support community revitalization. The funding to support these priorities was included in the Governor’s proposed fiscal year 2015 budget that was introduced today. (Amie Howell 215-814-5722)

Regional Administrator Addresses Delaware Wetlands Conference - On January 30, 2014, Regional Administrator Garvin provided remarks at the 2014 Delaware Wetlands Conference in Dover, Delaware during the opening plenary session. Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary O’Mara also welcomed the group and discussed Delaware Governor Markell’s environmental agenda. The conference was well attended by a broad range of scientists, policy makers and state and local officials. Staff from Senator Coons (D-DE) office was also in attendance. (Amie Howell, 215-814-5722)

Regional Administrator Visits with Delaware Nature Society - On January 30, 2014, Regional Administrator Garvin participated in a courtesy visit with the Delaware Nature Society (DNS) Executive Director and the Associate Director of Natural Resources Conservation at the DuPont Environmental Education Center located along the Wilmington waterfront. Key topics of discussion included Agency priorities, DNS’s strategic planning process, community engagement, water quality, environmental justice, sustainability and climate change. (Amie Howell, 215-814-5722)

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Maryland

Regional Administrator Garvin Schedules Courtesy Visits - Regional Administrator Garvin is scheduled to meet with Maryland Congressman Delaney and Congressman Hoyer for courtesy visits on February 6, 2014, in Washington D.C. Congressman Delaney was elected in 2012 to represent the western panhandle of Maryland. Congressman Hoyer, House Minority Leader, represents the lower western shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. (Linda Miller, 215-814-2068)

Virginia

Regional Administrator Garvin to Visit with Senator Kaine of Virginia - Regional Administrator

Garvin is scheduled to meet with Senator Kaine of Virginia for a courtesy visit on February 6, 2014, in Washington D.C. Senator Kaine was elected to the Senate in 2012 and serves on the Armed Services, Budget, and Foreign Relations Committees. (Matthew Colip - 215-814-5439)

Regional Administrator Garvin to Meet with Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources -
Regional Administrator Garvin is scheduled to meet with Secretary Molly Ward of Virginia in Washington D.C. on February 6, 2014. This will be the Regional Administrator's first in-person meeting with Secretary Ward since she assumed office following the inauguration of Governor McAuliffe on January 11, 2014. (Matthew Colip - 215-814-5439)

Election for Virginia's 6th State Senate District Determined – A was recount held on Monday, January 27, 2014, of the ballots cast during the special election held on January 7, 2014, to fill the State Senate seat formerly held by now Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam resulting in Delegate Lynwood W. Lewis Jr., D-Accomack prevailing over Republican Wayne Coleman. The 6th District Senatorial election represented the final contest in the 2013 state-wide election cycle and provided the Democrats with the party majority in the General Assembly's Senate Chamber. (Matthew Colip - 215-814-5439)

2014 Session Update - General Assembly of Virginia -

H.B. 131 - Requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to submit a report to the committees of oversight and the Virginia delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission by November 1 of each year describing how the moneys from the voluntary income tax check-off for Chesapeake Bay restoration activities were expended. The bill requires the report to be posted on a website maintained by the Secretary of Natural Resources, along with a cumulative listing of previous grants. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 340 - Alternative Fuel Vehicle Conversion Fund - Allows moneys in the Fund to be used by local governments, local governmental agencies, and local school divisions. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 445 - Establishes minimum procedural requirements for the adoption of all waste load allocations, including public notice, public comment opportunity, a stakeholder's advisory group process, agency response to comments, and a public meeting. Historically, waste load allocations were established under various procedures on a case-by-case basis. The bill requires that a comprehensive listing of all total maximum daily load waste load allocations adopted or approved by the State Water Control Board prior to July 1, 2014, be set forth in the Water Quality Management Planning Regulation (9VAC25-720). The bill also provides that any amendment prior to July 1, 2025, of the Water Quality Management Planning Regulation waste load allocations for nitrogen or phosphorus related to chlorophyll-water quality criteria for

multiple James River basin facilities shall be undertaken in accordance with the Administrative Process Act. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 572 - Adds to the standard coastal wetland zoning ordinance a requirement that a local wetlands board give a permit applicant credit toward local in-lieu fees in the amount of the fee he has paid to the Virginia Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund or another dedicated wetlands restoration fund. The bill makes technical changes. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 975 - Repeals the \$64 annual license tax on hybrid electric motor vehicles that was first imposed beginning July 1, 2013. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 1012 - Adds the City of Suffolk to the list of localities permitted to provide by ordinance that charges for water and sewer shall be a lien on the real estate served by such waterline or sewer. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

H.B. 1116 - Extends the State Scenic River designation of the Banister River from the current 38.4 miles to 63.3 miles. Passed House of Delegates, referred to Senate.

S.B. 98 - Provides that the City of Richmond may develop criteria for financial assistance to customers for plumbing repairs and the replacement of water-inefficient appliances. Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

S.B. 127 - Repeals the \$64 annual license tax on hybrid electric motor vehicles that was first imposed beginning July 1, 2013. The bill also provides for refunds of the license tax paid on hybrid electric motor vehicles for registration years beginning on or after July 1, 2013. Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

S.B. 222 - Clarifies a community association's authority to prohibit or restrict the installation of solar power devices. Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

S.B. 257 - Designates a 12.7 mile segment of the Tye River as a component of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

S.B. 290 - Adds Smyth County to those localities in which charges for water and sewer constitute a lien against the real property. Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

S.B. 431 - Removes the \$5,000 cap on registration fees collected by the Department of Environmental Quality from persons conducting voluntary remediation of contaminated properties. The fees defray the costs of administering the voluntary remediation program. The bill also exempts the Virginia Waste Management Board from the regulatory requirements of the Administrative Process Act (APA) so that new regulations needed to adjust the fee schedule will be in place by July 1, 2014. The bill requires any subsequent adjustment to the fee schedule to be in compliance with the APA; Passed Senate, referred to House of Delegates.

(Matthew Colip - 215-814-5439)

West Virginia

2014 Session Update -

S.B. 136 - The Water Quality Standards Rule proposed by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection was passed out of Senate Natural Resources Committee with almost no discussion. The bill requires calculation of aluminum criteria based on "hardness" of the stream, significantly weakening existing regulations. The bill currently sits in Senate Judiciary, where it is believed to be stalled due to current water crisis (MCHM). (Mark Ferrell, 304-542-0231)

S.B. 373 - The Senate's first legislative response to the chemical spill was fast-tracked through the Senate and delivered to House Health and Human Resources Committee on January 29, 2014. The bill provides for regulation of "tank farms" and must pass through Judiciary and then Finance before making it to the House floor. (Mark Ferrell, 304-542-0231)

Chemical Spill Study Grants Awarded - The National Science Foundation said today it had awarded the grants to researchers from West Virginia University, the University of South Alabama and Virginia Tech. These "rapid response" grants from the National Science Foundation are to study the impacts of the January 9, 2014, chemical spill that contaminated drinking water supplies for 300,000 West Virginians. (Mark Ferrell, 304-542-0231)

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WV Bureau for Public Health and WV Department of Environmental Protection Denounce Water Findings - A Marshall University water scientist and member of the state Environmental Quality Board, told members of the Senate Judiciary on January 29, 2014, that his own limited testing of local water reveals a significant and potentially dangerous level of formaldehyde in drinking water at one local restaurant in Charleston. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection were quick to denounce Dr. Scott Simonton's legislative testimony as "misleading and irresponsible." (Mark Ferrell, 304-542-0231)